



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

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I

YOUR NAME: The Huntington Historical Society DATE: Oct. 1990

YOUR ADDRESS: 209 Main Street TELEPHONE: (516)427-7045

ORGANIZATION (if any): Inc. Village of Sands Point

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IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): "Keewaydin" (Charles C. Rumsey Estate)
2. COUNTY: Nassau TOWN/CITY: N. Hempstead VILLAGE: Sands Point
3. STREET LOCATION: 235 Middle Neck Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private
5. PRESENT OWNER: Rumsey, Charles C. ADDRESS: 235 Middle Neck Rd.
6. USE: Original: Residence Present: Residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

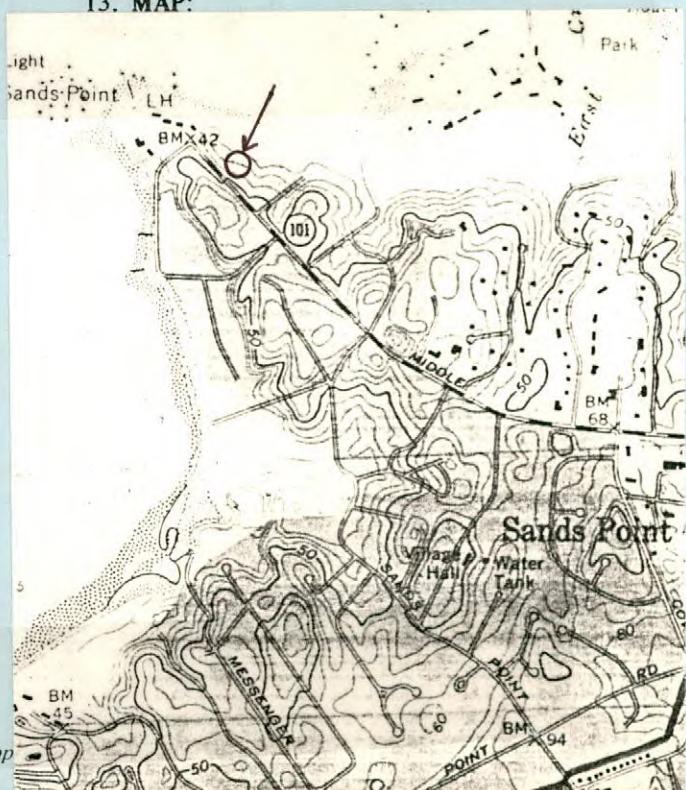
12. PHOTO:



HP-1

An Equal Opp

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
g. shop h. gardens
i. landscape features: waterfront
j. other: _____

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)
The house is set back from the road and is hidden by numerous trees on a large lawn. The property is partially wooded which is typical of large land holdings in Sands Point. It retains substantial water frontage on Long Island Sound.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
The slate-roofed house is three stories high. The mansard roof has three large dormer windows on the second story. The third story is comprised of three smaller dormer windows off center from the larger windows. The house is designed in an "I" pattern with the ends of the house projecting a foot to allow a change in the roof line simulating gable ends.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1929

ARCHITECT: McKim, Mead, White (office)

BUILDER: Unknown

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The house was designed in 1929 by McKim, Mead and White, a well known estate-era architectural firm. The firm is known for its design of public buildings as well as its design in sizeable estate homes. The firm's work is concentrated on the eastern seaboard but is not limited to the area. The architecturally significant garage was designed and built in 1912 for a former estate owner, Ralph Thomas, and is the work of noted architect Addison Mizner. (see SP32)

Mrs. Charles C. Rumsey, born to Edward Henry Harriman in 1881, was married to noted American sculptor C. C. Rumsey. Her brother, Averell Harriman, maintained a nearby estate as well.

21. SOURCES:

Mizner's Florida, D. W. Curn
National Cyclopedic of American Biography

Maps: 1914, Hyde, Atlas of Nassau County Long Island, NY P. 2 & 8
1939, Dolph & Stewart, Atlas of Nassau County, L.I.N.Y. P. 1

22. THEME:

Incorporated Village of Sands Point/Estate Period (1898-1939), Property Type I

RUMSEY

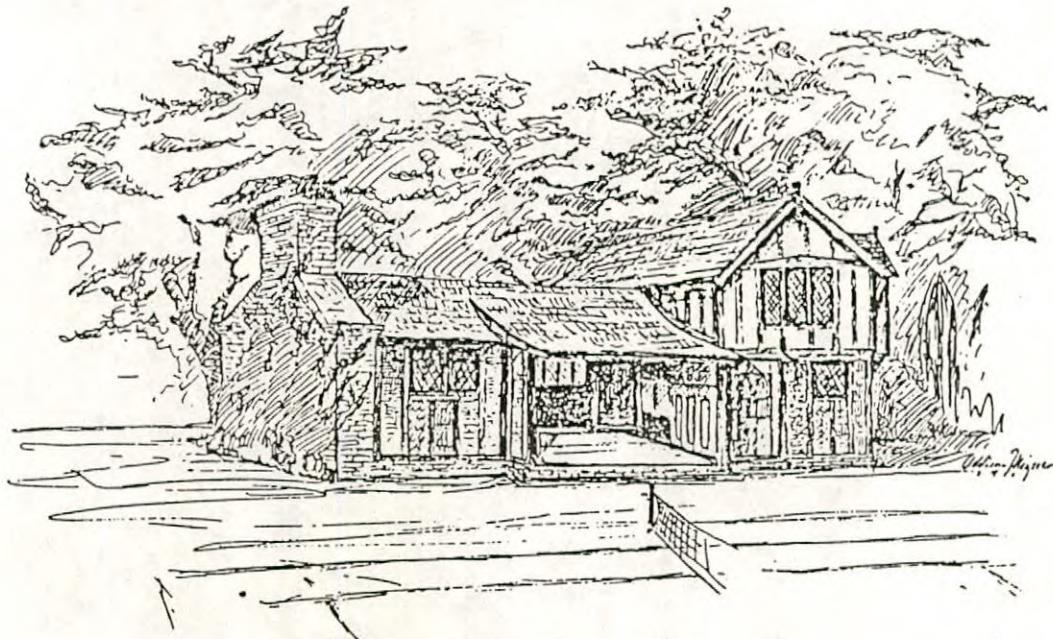
24 / MIZNER'S FLORIDA

D.W. Cire

While he supervised construction of Mrs. Monson's Japanese house, Mizner completed a half-timbered Norman country residence and tennis pavilion for Ralph Thomas. The Thomas estate was south of the lighthouse grounds at the tip of Sands Point. In 1911 *Plain Talk* published an article on the tennis house. Mrs. Thomas, an amateur championship tennis player, asked Mizner to include a court in his plans. Middle Neck Road ran through the center of the Thomases' long, narrow, and hilly lot. After placing the residence on the west side of the road, no room remained for a court. Locating the court on the east side of the road made it inconvenient to the house. Mizner solved the problem with a tennis pavilion.

The half-timbered brick and stucco building included changing and shower rooms and a large lounge with folding doors that opened onto the court and commanded a view of the Long Island Sound (Fig. 4). Its 7-foot-wide fireplace kept players warm on chilly days. Mizner used red brick tiles for the floor, chestnut paneling for the walls, and rough-hewn rafters for the ceiling. Rough-cut timbers joined by wooden pins, small diamond-paned casement windows, and uneven wooden roof shingles completed the Norman decor. Mizner said he based his design on an inn where William the Conqueror stopped while raising troops for his invasion of England.¹⁵

4. Sketch of Ralph Thomas tennis house, Sands Point, New York, 1911.



time the latter ran for the U.S. senate. Of the many philanthropic causes to which he lent generous aid the one nearest his heart was that of social security for the aged. In 1929, when the Delaware legislature failed to enact an old-age pension bill which he advocated, he established a pension system of his own under which some 1100 needy poor over sixty-five years of age received monthly allowances. He maintained this system for two years, until the state adopted an old age pension plan, spending over \$500,000 on it. In 1930 he was made chairman of the state welfare commission appointed by the governor to study old age pension legislation, and its work was aided greatly by the data he had previously collected on the subject. In his will he left his extensive estate, "Nemours," near Wilmington, with a large endowment to the Nemours Foundation for the "care and treatment of crippled children, or old men and women, particularly old couples, first consideration being given to the residents of Delaware." Education also enlisted his interest, and in 1929 he donated \$235,000 for the construction of a modern school building to replace four small country schools for the children of his neighbors near "Nemours." His private philanthropies were numerous. He annually distributed hundreds of baskets of food, clothing and coal to the needy families of Wilmington, to whom he was known as "Santa Claus," and he also used to act as host on outings for the children of the People's Settlement. He was deeply interested in the welfare of his employees, to whom he was always kind and considerate and with whom he was extremely popular. In 1911 the employees of the du Pont company presented him with a silver loving cup as a testimonial of their affection and loyalty. One of his favorite pleasures was the annual outing which he gave to and shared with the old powder makers employed by the company, with whom he had worked as a young man. A lover of music, he organized in 1902 the Tankapanikum orchestra, of which he was conductor. He composed several pieces of band music, one of which, "La Chauffeuse," was played frequently by John Philip Sousa and another, "The American General," was dedicated to Gen. Pershing. He was a life member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, American museum of natural history in New York, and New York Southern Society, and a member of the American Association for Old Age Security, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Bibliophile Society of Boston, the Bankers Club of America and Engineers' Club of New York, New York Yacht Club, Congressional Country Club of Washington, D.C., Rittenhouse Club of Philadelphia, Wilmington chamber of commerce, Wilmington Country Club and Sigma Chi fraternity. In religion he was an Episcopalian. He was married three times: (1) in Philadelphia, Jan. 4, 1887, to Bessie, daughter of Dorsey Gardiner of New Haven, Conn., whom he divorced in 1906; (2) in New York city, Oct. 15, 1907, to his cousin Alicia (Bradford) Maddox, daughter of Judge Edward G. Bradford of Wilmington, who died in 1920; (3) in Los Angeles, Jan. 22, 1921, to Jessie Dew, daughter of Thomas Ball, of Northumberland county, Va. By his first marriage he had four children: Madeline, wife of Herman Ruoff; Bessie Gardiner, wife of Reginald Huidekoper; Alfred Victor, and Victorine Elise du Pont, wife of Elbert Dent. He also had a step-

daughter, Alicia du Pont Maddox, wife of Victor Llewellyn, and an adopted daughter, Adelaide Camille Denise du Pont. He died at his estate, "Epping Forest," near Jacksonville, Fla., Apr. 29, 1935.

DEFREES, Joseph Holton, lawyer, was born at Goshen, Ind., Apr. 10, 1858, son of James McKinney and Victoria (Holton) Defrees; grandson of Joseph Hutton and Mary (McKinney) Defrees; great-grandson of James and Margaret (Dougherty) Defrees, and great-great-grandson of Joseph and Mary (Stuart) Defrees, of French Huguenot descent. His grandfather was a congressman from Indiana during 1865-67. His parents died during his infancy and he was reared by his grandfather. He attended Earlham college at Richmond, Ind., and Northwestern university, without graduating. He was admitted to the Indiana bar in 1880 and practiced at Goshen as a member of the firm of Baker, Defrees & Baker until 1888 when he removed to Chicago. His firm was known first as Aldrich, Payne & Defrees, then as Defrees, Brace & Ritter and still later as Defrees, Buckingham & Eaton, continuing in that association until his death. Specializing in corporation law, Defrees gained distinction in business as well as in his profession. He was elected president of the Chicago Association of Commerce in 1914, and during 1920-21 was president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. He was a member of the American, Illinois State and Chicago (president, 1909-11) bar associations; Chicago Civic Federation, National Institute of Social Sciences, the Academy of Political Science, the National Economic League and National Bureau of Economic Research. He was a director of the International chamber of commerce and during 1912-13 served as a director of the Chicago Legal Aid Society. In 1921 he was appointed by President Harding a member of the President's unemployment conference and of the American section of the first Pan-American financial congress. He was decorated chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government in 1921. He was married Oct. 4, 1882, to Harriet, daughter of Daniel McNaughton, of Buffalo, N.Y., and had one son, Donald Defrees. He died in Washington, D.C., Feb. 5, 1929.

RUMSEY, Charles Cary, sculptor, was born in Buffalo, N.Y., Aug. 29, 1879, son of Laurence Dana and Jennie (Cary) Rumsey. His first American ancestor was Robert Rumsey who came from Wales in 1664, settling at Fairfield, Conn. From him and his wife Rachel —, the descent is through John and Esther (Jones) Rumsey; David and Hannah (Bronson) Rumsey; Aaron and Sophia (Phelps) Rumsey, and Bronson Case and Eveline (Hall) Rumsey, the grandparents of the sculptor. He was graduated A.B. at Harvard in 1902 and studied sculpture at the Boston art school and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. His first publicly exhibited work was the statue of an Indian shown at the Pan American exposition in Buffalo in 1901. He had a penchant for equestrian figures, and as a young man made statues of many famous horses for the owners of noted stables, including Harry Payne Whitney's "Hamburg" and "Burgomaster"; August Belmont's "Rock Sand"; W. A. Wadsworth's "The Friar," with Mr. Wadsworth in the saddle, and John E. Madden's "Nancy

Hanks." Probably his best known work was an equestrian statue of Pizarro, conqueror of Peru, which is owned by the city of Trujillo, Spain, Pizarro's birthplace. He also designed a fountain for Edward H. Harriman's estate, "Arden," at Tuxedo, N.Y. Rumsey was a skillful polo player and, with his friend Devereaux Milburn, participated in a number of international tournaments in this country and abroad. In 1922 he was a member of the Orange County Club team that defeated an Argentine four in a match for the Herbert memorial cup. He was married May 26, 1910, to Mary (below), daughter of Edward H. Harriman (q.v.), and they had three children: Charles Cary, Jr., Mary Averell Harriman and Bronson Harriman Rumsey. His death occurred at Floral Park, Long Island, N.Y., Sept. 21, 1922.

RUMSEY, Mary Harriman (Mrs. Charles Cary Rumsey), was born in New York city, Nov. 17, 1881, daughter of Edward Henry Harriman (q.v.), noted railway builder and financier, and Mary Williamson Averell, his wife. Her education was received at Brearly school and Barnard college; she received the A.B. degree from the latter in 1905. At Barnard she majored in biology and sociology and developed a passion for social service which later found expression in a wide range of civic activities. She had previously (1901) founded the New York Junior League, an organization of young society women, to engage in neighborhood settlement work, thus initiating a movement which spread rapidly and became a national organization, the National Association of Junior Leagues, consisting now (1936) of 131 junior leagues, all actuated by her ideal of social service. During the World war Mrs. Rumsey served in many defense and welfare organizations and was chairman of the finance committee of the New York Council for National Defense. She took a leading part in organizing the community councils of national defense and after the war was mainly responsible for keeping the community councils of greater New York in existence, and fostering them until they became important factors in securing more parks, playgrounds and swimming pools; in lowering public utility service charges; in promoting the use of schools as community centers; improving housing conditions and transit facilities. Besides being a pioneer in the organization of the community as the essential unit of an effective system of democratic government Mrs. Rumsey was an indefatigable exponent of the cooperative movement. She enlisted the aid of lecturers, among them George Russell, the Irish poet, who was the leader of the cooperative movement in Ireland. She also took an active part in the organization of commodity, community and consumers' cooperatives, such as the Eastern Livestock Coöperative Marketing Association and the American Farm Foundation. In the latter organization she was a member of the executive committee in charge of the work of establishing national citizens' councils, an extension of the community council idea. She was also identified with the Emergency Exchange Association, a federation of community markets in which the necessities of life are not sold for cash but exchanged by barter. President Roosevelt appointed her chairman of the consumers' advisory board of the National Recovery Administration in 1933 and subsequently made her adviser on consumer problems in his national emergency council. The efficiency with which she discharged

her duties in the national administration led to her selection in 1934 by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt (q.v.) as one of the most distinguished women in the United States. She was a former chairman of the mental hygiene committee of the State Charities Aid Association; chairman of the Council of Women's Organizations in 1919; co-chairman with Alfred E. Smith (q.v.) of the citizens' summer playground committee in 1933; a trustee of Barnard college, and a founder of the Colony Club, New York city. Mrs. Rumsey was an expert horsewoman and the winner of many blue ribbons at horseshows, and a frequent rider to hounds. She was also a patron of the arts and donated statues, executed by her husband, of Francisco Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, to the cities of Lima, Peru, and Trujillo, Spain, Pizarro's birthplace. For the latter gift she was decorated by the Spanish government in 1930 with the cross of the Order of Isabella. With her unusual virile, active nature, her initiative and her devotion to the cause of social betterment, went a great personal charm and kindness, which endeared her to a wide circle of friends. She was married May 26, 1910, to Charles Cary Rumsey (above), sculptor, and they had three children: Charles Cary, Mary Averell Harriman and Bronson Harriman Rumsey. Mrs. Rumsey died in Washington, D.C., Dec. 18, 1934, from injuries received while fox hunting in Virginia.

MARTIN, Samuel Albert, educator, was born at Canonsburg, Pa., Nov. 1, 1853, son of William and Mary Ann (Houston) Martin, grandson of Samuel Martin, great-grandson of James Martin and great-great-grandson of Samuel Martin, an emigrant from Wigtown, Scotland. He was graduated B.S. at Westminster college, New Wilmington, Pa., in 1872 and B.A. at Lafayette college in 1877 (A.M. 1879 and D.D. 1892). He studied theology at Alleghany theological seminary and the universities of Edinburgh and Princeton, was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in 1881 and was pastor of Christ Church, Lebanon, Pa., for three years. After teaching homiletics at Lincoln university, Oxford, Pa., ten years he became president of Wilson college (1895), a school for girls, at Chambersburg, Pa. There he raised funds for an enlargement of the grounds and the erection of two dormitories, Fletcher and South halls, a president's house, a gymnasium and a chemical laboratory. During his administration the student attendance increased 50 per cent. In 1902 he became acting professor of homiletics at Princeton theological seminary. He was acting president of the Pennsylvania college for women, Pittsburgh, during 1903-06, principal of the Cumberland Valley state normal school in 1907-13, and professor of mental and moral philosophy at Lafayette college, from 1913 until his death. During 1913-14 he was again acting professor of homiletics at Princeton theological seminary. He was the author of "The Man of Uz" (1891), "The Oracles of God" (1916), "Philosophy of Conduct" (1917) and various articles in magazines and reviews. He was married twice: (1) at Easton, Pa., Feb. 21, 1881, to Katherine K., daughter of Thomas C. Porter, who died in 1899 leaving three children: Jean, wife of Reginald M. White; Thomas Conrad Porter, and William Martin; (2) Dec. 19, 1900, to Mary A., daughter of E. Drew Ricker, of St. Louis, Mo., the dean of Wilson college, by whom he had two children: Drew Ricker and Elizabeth G. Martin. He died at Easton, Pa., Mar. 26, 1921.

LIBRARY